

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

Survey No. P678-4-40

Magi No.

DOE   yes   no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Norken & Son Insurance

**2. Location**

street & number 6231-3 Baltimore Ave.    not for publication

city, town Riverdale    vicinity of    congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> public	<u>X</u> occupied	<u>  </u> agriculture <u>  </u> museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>X</u> commercial <u>  </u> park
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational <u>  </u> private residence
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment <u>  </u> religious
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>X</u> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government <u>  </u> scientific
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial <u>  </u> transportation
	<u>X</u> not applicable	<u>  </u> no	<u>  </u> military <u>  </u> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Maria, Antonio and Virginia Puglisi

street & number    telephone no.: 559-7634

city, town    state and zip code   

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse    liber 6289

street & number Main Street    folio 616

city, town Upper Marlboro    state Maryland

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title   

date       federal    state    county    local   

depository for survey records   

city, town       state

## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved      date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

6231-3 Baltimore Avenue is a two story commercial building located in the town of Riverdale. At present, it houses two businesses - Norken & Son Insurance and Technologies of Modern Business.

The main facade, facing Baltimore Avenue, shows a significant amount of alteration. While the brown brick appears to be original, all windows and doors are obviously more recent changes. The two doors appear to be replacements rather than additions because there is no evidence of brick damage around them. The middle opening - now a plate glass window, - appears to have replaced a projected display bay. Markings on the brick and a different color infill brick point to this. On the upper level, a strip of glass has replaced what was probably several punched windows in order to make the space more attractive for retail/office space. The shingled False Mansard roof appears to be an original form,

The southern elevation, facing the alley, features a stepped parapet and a second level window, which is a replacement for larger, arched window opening.

## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				local history

Specific dates 1925-6

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

6231-3 Baltimore Avenue is an example of a two-part commercial block, common from the 1850's to the 1950's, especially in towns that developed along streetcar lines.<sup>1</sup> While Riverdale was platted in 1889 and incorporated as a town in 1920, this building was built in 1925-6, by J. Berlin, who also built 6237-41 Baltimore Avenue.<sup>2</sup> At the time, Route One (Baltimore Avenue) was the main road from Washington to the north. It had also just been incorporated into U.S. Route 1 - the main north-south arterial on the east coast, stretching from Maine to Florida.<sup>3</sup> This designation encouraged a tremendous amount of commercial buildup along the road to service travelers.

Berlin maintained possession of the lot until 1931, when the northern half of Lot 2 was sold to E. Lacroix.<sup>4</sup> The southern half, which included this building and the southern half of 6237-41 Baltimore Avenue, was sold to M. and G. Gorin in 1932, and was immediately resold to O. and B. Corber. They owned the property for 47 years before selling to the present owners.<sup>5</sup> Under the present ownership, the Puglisi's own 6231-3 Baltimore Avenue, while the Bruno's own the southern half of 6237-41 Baltimore Avenue.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of nominated property** \_\_\_\_\_

**Quadrangle name** \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

**UTM References** do NOT complete UTM references

**A**

Zone Easting Northing

**B**

Zone Easting Northing

**c**

D

**E**

[illegible]

**G**

H | | | | |

### Verbal boundary description and justification

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title	Robert D. Rivers, student
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organization George Washington University date March, 1990

street & number 2023 G St., N.W. telephone 994-7475

city or town Washington state D.C.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
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21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
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